

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-05 OPR-02 SY-04 NIC-01 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 011550Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5721

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 7165

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: KKE AGREEMENT WITH EDA

REF: ATHENS 7128

1. ILIAS ILIOU FOR THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (EDA) AND HARILAOS FLORAKIS, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (EXTERIOR) CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SIGNED AGREEMENT IN ATHENS SEPTEMBER 28 TO COORDINATE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS IN FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE FEUDING INTERIOR FACTION OF KKE, WHICH FEW DAYS EARLIER HAD SIGNED SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH EDA, WELCOMED LATEST AGREEMENT AS "A STEP FOR THE COMMON ACTION OF THE LEFTIST FORCES IN OUR POLITICAL LIFE."

2. FURTHER STATEMENT BY KKE CENTRAL COMMITTEE STRESSED THAT KKE INTENDED TO MAINTAIN AN ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTITY QUITE SEPARATE FROM EDA, THUS IMPLYING THAT COOPERATION WILL BE LIMITED AND PRAGMATIC.

3. THIS AGREEMENT REVERSES FORMER STRIDENTLY NEGATIVE POSITION OF KKE TOWARD DISSIDENT COMMUNISTS. KKE
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INSISTENCE THAT DISSIDENTS ABANDON USE OF COMMUNIST PARTY

LABEL APPEARS NOT TO HAVE BEEN MET, ALTHOUGH BOTH
FACTIONS HAD TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO FACILITATE EVEN THIS
LIMITED RAPPROCHEMENT. ILIOU DESERVES CREDIT
FOR HIS DOGGED DETERMINATION TO BRING MARXIST FACTIONS
TOGETHER. NOTWITHSTANDING NEW LEGAL STATUS OF KKE UNDER
REINFORCED PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FORMULA A JOINT
ELECTORAL TICKET WILL ENHANCE CHANCES FOR ELECTING
COMMUNIST DEPUTIES. A UNITED LEFT CAMPAIGN WILL BETTER
EXPLOIT THE NOVEL OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED ON NATIONAL
TELEVISION BY NEW POLICY OF EQUAL EXPOSURE DURING
CAMPAIGN FOR ALL MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS. EVEN THIS MODEST
STEP TOWARD COOPERATION WILL ALSO ONCE MORE OPEN DOOR TO
KKE INFLUENCE AND IN LONGER TERM TO TAKEOVER BID OF
EDA.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, KKE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON
SEPTEMBER 30 CONDEMNED DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED OCTOBER 1
(REFTEL), CALLING IT HARMFUL ACTION DISCONNECTED FROM
POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. EDA ISSUED SIMILAR ANNOUN,
ASKING PEOPLE AND YOUTH OF ATHENS NOT TO SUPPORT
DEMONSTRATION. KKE ANNOUNCEMENT IMPLIES, AND
OTHER REPORTS CONFIRM, THAT PRIMARY SPONSORS OF RALLY MAY
BE MAOISTS, ANARCHISTS AND OTHER EXTREME LEFT ELEMENTS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMITTEES, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS07165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740277-0575
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741084/aaaacucy.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ATHENS 7128
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KKE AGREEMENT WITH EDA
TAGS: PINT, GR, KKE, EDA, (ILIOU, ILIAS), (FLORAKIS, HARILAOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005